

Living The Christian Life Series:
Lesson 29: Modeling The Christian Life In The Home
(Posting The Mez-ou-zah of The Church Age)
(A Mother’s Day Special in 2026)

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Series Text: Romans 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

Applicational Texts: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Introduction:

It is Mother’s Day and a fitting semi-climax to our current series titled, “*Living the Christian Life.*” I say semi-climax because we will do a quick summary of applicational principles in our final lesson next week. But our study here is designed to narrow the focus of Living the Christian Life down to beginning in the home. The home is the basic foundational structure of our society and mothers are assigned a key role in the structure of it. Take Proverbs 31:10 for an example, “*Who can find a virtuous woman, for her price is far above rubies,*”

The title of this study is “Posting The Mez-ou-zah of The Church Age.” I acknowledge that is an unusual title for a Mother’s Day Message but hear me through because it is totally fitting for our current series on Living the Christian Life.

The “Mez-ou-zah” is the point of our Applicational Text from Deuteronomy 6:4-9. The word Mez-ou-zah is a reference to the nailing of the Mosaic Law to the doorpost of their homes. When the Children of Israel went into the “Promised Land” God instructed them to post the Mosaic Law on the doorposts of their homes to identify that home as being a home that was dedicated to following God. That instruction forms the focus for the title of our message, “*Posting the Mez-ou-zah of The Church Age.*” Living the Christian Life

effectively begins at home and I would suggest that requires the posting of the Mez-ou-zah. So, am I suggesting we need to nail the Mosaic Law to the doorposts of our homes? No, not exactly. The Mosaic Law has been fulfilled and is no longer the sign of a home dedicated to God, But we are to exhibit the Mez-ou-zah of the Church Age and that exhibition begins in our homes with the structure of the family and is focused upon a “virtuous woman.”

The Mez-ou-zah of Israel was the Mosaic Law. But, when the religious leaders asked Jesus which was the greatest commandment, He responded and His response was recorded by Matthew.

Matthew 22:36-40

Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

In this response Jesus cites two commandments “*love the Lord thy God*” and “*love thy neighbour as thyself.*” Notice, Jesus said, “*...On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*”

Obedience to these two commandments is fulfilled in the doctrine of Grace. You are enable to “*love the Lord thy God*” through His amazing Grace. His love for us is the model by which we can love Him and love others.

I John 4:19

We love Him, because He first loved us.

That statement made me uncomfortable as a nine-year-old. I didn’t love God because He first loved us. I loved Him because of who He is. But we must go back to I John 4:16, “*And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love, and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*” The manifestation of love is grace, His love, manifested in His grace. is the model for our love for others. Grace is the manifestation of love. He has provided us with His own righteousness, His resources, and His realm all at the expense of Christ, who *Blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;* (Colossians 2:14). And we are made acceptable in His sight because of Grace. We no longer are instructed to nail those ordinances to the doorposts of our houses, but to accept the amazing grace of God. The second commandment, “*...thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*” is fulfilled in our gracing others. All of “*the law and the prophets*” are hung upon those two commandments which taught the “Amazing Grace of God” and the “Doctrine of Gracing Others.” No! We are no longer required to nail the law to the doorpost of our houses. The “Mez-ou-zah” for the Church Age is the single word “Grace,” engrave it on the doorposts of your house, embrace it as your motto, but let it be the testimony of your life to others.

I. The Purpose of This Series on Living The Christian Life:

The purpose of this series on living the Christian life is to enable us as believers to graduate from a constant reliance upon I John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all.”* to a more frequent obedience to James 1:16, *“Stop being seduced.”* To graduate to resisting sin instead of depending upon the restoration from sin we have been investigating the *“Biblical Techniques For Living The Christian Life and The Crowns That Accompany Them.”*

We have examined the technique for *Developing the Spirit Controlled life and the accompanying Crown of Righteousness.* Then we examined the technique for *Developing Spiritual Maturity and the accompanying Crown of Glory.* We have examined *Developing the Faith/Rest Technique and acquiring The Crown of Life.* Then, we examined *Developing the Technique of Faithful Stewardship and acquiring the Crown of Joy.* The four techniques for living the Christian Life are the mechanics for living the Christian life by maintaining the enablement of the Holy Spirit, achieving spiritual growth, resting in the promises and provisions of God, and becoming productive Sojourners in our spiritual walk.

However, the underlying philosophy which activates these techniques is the Doctrine of Grace as we saw in an earlier series titled, *“Living in The Spheres of Grace.”*

II. Posting The Church Age Mez-ou-zah:

Although many in the Jewish community were diligent to post the Mosaic Law on the doorposts of their homes most of them failed to get beyond the ritual to the reality. They were to live in obedience to the commandments and learn of the *“Amazing Grace of God”* but they got involved in the ritual and missed the message. The commandments of the Law were to remind them of the standards of God and their failure, and the ritual of the Mosaic Law was to teach them of God’s Grace provision to meet man’s need Himself – *“without the shedding of blood is no remission of sin”* (Hebrews 9:22)

So, let us not repeat their mistake, the obligation of the Mez-ou-zah – the Law with its commandments and ritual were once and for all nailed to that Old Rugged Cross and Christ paid the debt that Law required.

The *“Mez-ou-zah”* for the Church Age is one word, Grace! There is one thing by which our homes should be recognized as people pass by, it is Grace!

No! I am not suggesting that you nail a sign with the word *“GRACE”* to the doorpost of your houses – although that might not be a bad idea. What I am suggesting is that your household be known in your community and among your acquaintances as a household of grace.

God has promised Israel a new covenant, a time, during the Millennial Reign, when the Mez-ou-zah would be written upon their hearts.

Hebrews 8:10-12

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

Although this passage speaks of a new covenant God establishes with Israel during the Millennial Reign, the spiritual application of it has been introduced in the Church Age when the Amazing Grace of God has been vividly revealed and is our Mez-ou-zah – write it upon the fleshly tablets of your heart- it is the single word, GRACE!

III. Identifying Grace Without a Sign In The Yard:

Grace is the manifestation of love. Grace from God is righteousness, resources, and realm. Grace toward others is better than a sign in the yard.

Our first registrar at Channel Islands Bible College and Seminary use to boast that Grace stopped at his door. When my wife took over that office, she boasted that she left the sign on the door. Sign or no sign the presence or absence of Grace in any home is soon recognized.

Grace is an attitude that is made obvious in behavior. Therefore we don't need a sign in the yard that identifies our attitude and behavior they speak for themselves. A common definition of the word grace is, "unmerited favor." However we have frequently defined grace using acrostics. Grace for Salvation is defined as God's Righteousness At Christ's Expense. Grace for Living the Christian life is defined as God's Resources At Christ's Expense. Grace for Eternity is defined as God's Rrealm At Christ's Expense. God assumes all the responsibility and expense to maintain a relationship with us. We have said that gracing others is to assume all the responsibility and expense in order to maintain a relationship with them. Yes! I know! That's not fair. No! It is not fair, it is GRACE and it is to start at home.

King Solomon, a son of David and Bathsheba was known for his wisdom and penned many of the proverbs we have in the Bible. In Proverbs 1:7-9 He wrote, *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.* A father's instruction and a mother's law are said to be ornaments of grace to our heads.

A father's Instruction and a mother's law are the manifestation of Grace. The word *instruction* is translated from the Hebrew word **moo-sawr** meaning to respond properly to **discipline**. The word *law* is translated from a form of the Hebrew word **torah** and means **precepts for living**. In this statement the father provides correction and the mother provides application principles (precepts). Together they form the basis for grace. *For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck*. The word *ornament* is the Hebrew word **liv-yaw** and refers to a **crown of achievement** corresponding to the stephanos crowns we have been examining in the Greek New Testament. A crown of Grace will be the result of the training in the home. The father provides the instruction and discipline, and the mother provides the applicational precepts

This ornament, crown, will not be among those awarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ but will be the visible effect of training at home and a testimony to our effectively living the Christian Life – it begins at home where the father is the authority and the mother is the model.

IV. A Tribute To Mothers Who Grace Others:

The description of a “virtuous Woman” can be titled, “A Woman Oriented To Grace” and her life behaviors are her “mez-ou-zah” to others. Not just a posting of commandments and ordinances on the doorpost, but an exhibit of grace in living the Christian life.

Proverbs 31:10-31

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

We miss some of the beauty of the Hebrew poetry in the translation into English but look at the points highlighted by the Grace oriented woman: Allow me to quickly summarize her actions:

- She will do good...
- She seeketh work...
- She is like merchant's ships..
- She considereth a field and buys it...
- She plants it...
- She girdeth her loins with strength...
- She perceiveth her production is good...
- She layeth her hands to the distaff...
- She reacheth forth her hands to the needed...
- She is not afraid of the snow for her family...
- She maketh for herself coverings of tapestry and silk...
- She maketh linens to sell...
- She openeth her mouth with wisdom and kindness is in her tongue
- She looks well to needs of her household...

One common word describes the philosophy that results in that list of actions, it is the word GRACE! We have defined it with the acrostic using the word GRACE as **G**racing, **R**egardless, **A**voiding **C**ritical **E**xpectations! "Gracing" means that we assume all the responsibility and expense for maintaining a relationship with others. You will observe that none of the actions of the Virtuous Woman is based on a response, they are performed unconditionally. There are some responses noted, *"...the heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he will have no need of spoil..."* *"Her children arise up and call her blessed..."* *"...her husband also and he praiseth her..."* These are appropriate responses but must not be the factor that generates our behavior.

If we are to live the Christian life effectively, in the sphere of our faith we are to fully develop virtue, in the sphere of virtue we are to fully develop knowledge, in the sphere of knowledge we are to fully develop temperance, in the sphere of temperance we are to fully develop patience, in the sphere of patience we are to fully develop godliness, in the sphere of godliness we are to fully develop[brotherly kindness, and in the sphere of brotherly kindness we are to fully develop love. The result will be a grace attitude and the manifestation of that attitude will enable us to Live the Christian Life effectively.

Conclusion:

The mez-ou-zah found on the doorpost of Jewish homes today still contain the commandments of the Mosaic Law because they have failed to see that Jesus was the Messiah. The Jews still nail The Law to the doorposts of their houses because they deny that Jesus took them out of the way, nailing them to His cross (Colossians 2:14).

The mez-ou-zah attached to our front door should not say “Grace Stops At This Door,” but should simply say “GRACE.” And the model for that grace is never better portrayed than when it is portrayed by godly mothers. Let us honor them according to this declaration, *Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.* The Mez-ou-zah on the front door of a “godly woman’s” house says “GRACE!” and she shall wear the Crown of Joy. So, *Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.*

But it all begins at Salvation:

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God...

The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life...

With the heart man believes unto righteousness...

But with the mouth confession is made unto salvation...

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved...

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy,
acceptable unto God, which
is your reasonable service.*

(Romans 12:1)